

USS Enterprise (CVN 65)

THE SHUTTLE

Monday, October 18, 2010

Clearing for takeoff

Enterprise Sailors Commence Blue Water Certification

SAILORS OF THE DAY



Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Briane B. Dupree

Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Briane B. Dupree is a native of Cimarron, Kan. Dupree enjoys playing basketball and also her PS3 in her spare time. She joined the Navy for the chance to travel outside of Kansas. Dupree enjoys watching aircraft launch and recover safely. She is unsure if she will reenlist in the Navy and is still considering her future plans.

Quartermaster 3rd Class David E. Conner

Quartermaster 3rd Class David E. Conner is from Birmingham, Ala. His passion for technology and desire to work with the greatest minds in the Navy led him to enlist more than two years ago. He plans on continuing his education and advancing in the Navy. Conner enjoys reading, watching college football and fine-tuning his percussion skills.





Big 'E' begins blue water certification

By MCSN Alex R. Forster
USS Enterprise Public Affairs

USS ENTERPRISE, At Sea – The aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) began its 'blue water' certification Oct. 16 during its Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX).

Blue water certification is an important and challenging requirement for Big E's embarked squadrons, their pilots and supporting crew and is one of the last required certifications required before deployment.

A successful certification means all aircraft are qualified to operate with the

ship being their only landing site. Prior to becoming blue water certified, pilots must fly their aircraft with secondary landing sites, usually an airfield, within range.

Without this certification, Enterprise cannot deploy. Blue water certification is so crucial to mission accomplishment because a deployment can lead to situations where secondary landing sites are not available.

Without divert fields and emergency landing areas, performing blue water operations can be very risky.

"We have to have the ability to conduct combat operations in areas of the world where divert fields ashore are not feasible due to political issues as well as geographical constraints," said Cmdr. Carroll W. Bannister, Enterprise's Air Boss.

Big 'E' has every intention of receiving a passing grade upon completion of the three-day event. The qualifying body, Commander Strike Force Training Atlantic, is providing a handling team of aviation experts to evaluate the certification process.

"It is one of the final pre-deployment 'checks in the box' for Enterprise as a whole – it's a whole team event," said Chief Air-Traffic Controller (AW/SW) Douglas E. Cooke, Operation's department's OC division leading chief petty officer.

Two of the most important parts of

blue water certification are to provide in-flight refueling and the ability to deploy the flight deck barricade quickly.

After an emergency landing it's crucial to clear the deck to allow incoming aircraft to land safely. It's the job of Air department's V-1 division to maintain a fast and efficient crash and salvage team aboard the ship.

"Any aircraft still airborne may start to run out of fuel if we don't provide them with a clear deck to land on," said Senior Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) (AW/SW) Michael E. Mappin, V-1 division's leading chief petty officer.

The ability to give aircraft a landing area is crucial. In today's ever-changing geo-political environment, not being able to put an aircraft back onto its carrier can have massive consequences.

The EP-3E intelligence gathering aircraft that had to make an emergency landing in China compromised our intelligence and the crew was not immediately released, recalled Mappin.

Once finished with COMPTUEX, the strike group's final step before deploying is the successful completion of an upcoming Joint Task Force Exercise.

"The culmination of the efforts of the crew since the shipyards and sea trials, and now COMPTUEX, has been to take our place on the tip of the spear – where Enterprise has been for almost 50 years," said Cooke.

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News & Notes

Mandatory Pre-Deployment Briefs:

**Married Sailors/
Family Brief**
Nov. 1 & 29
Vista Point
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Single Sailors Brief
Nov. 8 & 10
C-9 Auditorium
4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Aviation Boatswain's
Mate (Equipment)
3rd Class Steven A.
Smithson performs
preventative mainte-
nance on the aircraft
carrier USS Enter-
prise's (CVN 65)
flight deck's arresting
wires.

U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Alex R. Forster



Maintaining materials

Cycle 2 2010 Physical Fitness Assessment Plan of Action

Oct. 17 - All PARFQ completed

Oct. 25 - 29 - BCA

Nov. 1 - 12 - Command PRT testing

**Nov. 8 - Official height/weight/body fat
measurements for personnel designated to
swim**

**Nov. 15 - 16 - Make-up days for personnel TAD
or on emergency leave**

**Nov. 16 - Command Fall 2010 (CYCLE 2) PFA
Completed**

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